CLAIMS

I claim:

1. A method in a computer system of decompressing data that has been subject to compression and the compressed data being in a set of predetermined data layers, the computer system including a host processor connected via a peripheral bus to a secondary processor, the method comprising the steps of:

decompressing at least a system layer of the compressed data in the host processor; and

decompressing other data layers of the set in the secondary processor.

2. The method of Claim 1, wherein the secondary processor is a graphics accelerator.

3. The method of Claim 1, wherein the secondary processor is a dedicated MPEG decompression circuit for decompression of data subject to MPEG compression.

4. The method of Claim 1, wherein the step of decompressing at least a system layer further comprises decompressing a book layer of the set.

5. The method of Claim 1, wherein the data includes audio and video data.

6. The method of Claim 1, wherein the step of decompressing other data layers includes the steps of:

variable length decoding the compressed data;

inverse zig-zagging the decoded data;

inverse quantizing the zig-zagged data, and inverse discrete cosine transforming the inverse quantized data.

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7. The method of Claim 1, wherein the step of decompressing other data layers includes motion vector compensation of the data.

8. A computer system adapted for decompression of compressed data which is in a set of predetermined data layers, comprising:

a host processor;

a peripheral bus connected to the host processor;

a secondary processor connected to the peripheral bus; and

means for decompressing in the host processor at least a system layer of the compressed data, wherein other data layers of the set are decompressed in the secondary processor.

9. The system of Claim 8, wherein the secondary processor is a graphics accelerator.

10. The system of Claim 8, wherein the secondary processor is a dedicated decompression circuit for decompression of data which has been compressed using MPEG compression.

11. The system of Claim 8, wherein the means for decompressing at least a system layer further comprises decompressing means for decompressing a book layer of the set.

12. The system of Claim 8, wherein the data includes audio and video data.

13. The system of Claim 8, wherein the means for decompressing at least the system layer includes:

means for variable length decoding the

compressed data;

means for inverse zig-zagging the decoded data; and

means for inverse quantizing the data.

14. The system of Claim 8, wherein decompression of the other layers of the set includes motion vector compensation of the data.

15. The computer system of Claim 8, further comprising a frame buffer connected to the secondary processor.